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PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT PLAN ADOPTION SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2005

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

UW Pyle Center, Madison

I. Welcome/Introductions/Announcements

Dale Langer, Manager of the Adoption and Consultation Section, welcomed participants and introductions were made.

II. Discussion on Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE)

Dale W. Langer

Comments received on the 'PEP bulletin board' regarding SAFE were reviewed. Dale stated that it would be up to each county's discretion if the SAFE program is implemented in their county. "Mock studies" using SAFE will be shared with committee members and will be discussed during the November meeting.

Dave Whelan presented the findings of an ongoing CSSW grant study that evaluates post adoption services for families who adopt children with special care needs.

III. Combining FFA and AFA

Sherill Jahr, Audrey Koch and Wendy Krueger

Sherill Jahr addressed the standards for foster care and adoption, commenting that licensing standards be discussed and what programs are available to families to make the right choice in adoption or foster care. The Committee discussed that during the screening perhaps a panel of both state and county workers should be assessing and educating the family in identifying and clarifying referral to programs to best suit the family and child's needs. Also discussed was training for parents to transition from foster care to adoption.

Merriel Kruse also addressed the Standards of Practice noting that it needs to be determined what best practice works for permanence. Members were asked to review the Standards of Practice and provide comments back to Cheryl Howe by Friday, November 4th.

IV. Child Preparation/Photo Listing/Sibling Placement Issues

Colleen Ellingson and Nan Upright-Sexton

Colleen asked that the committee review the 3-5-7 Model Training Program material, as well as the "touchpoints". Members were asked to e-mail comments to her for discussion at the next meeting.

V. Discuss the three Ds of adoption (Displaced, Disrupted and Dissolution)

Sub-Workgroups updated on assignments

Discussion evolved around data collected in counties. State Permanency Consultants (SPCs) will work closely with counties to obtain necessary information. A form is being developed for the SPCs to use when meeting with the counties. The expectation is that this form will be completed by the SPCs - not by county staff. This data should be inclusive of international adoptions.

VI. Statutes/Administrative Code

Therese Durkin, Office of Legal Council

Therese Durkin provided necessary legal interpretation to enable the Committee to further discuss the differences between HFS 51 and 56 and how it would relate in combining the FFA/AFA.

VII. Agenda for the Next Meeting - items were identified and will be reflected on the agenda.

NEXT PEP ADOPTION COMMITTEE MEETING – November 15, 2005 in MADISON